

Ron Paul announces nominees to military academies *Says 1998 slate of nominees are 'among the best of the best' in America*

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WASHINGTON, DC - US Representative Ron Paul announced this week his nominees to the four United States service academies; the Military Academy at Westpoint, NY, the Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD, the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, and the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY.

"These young men and women represent a selection of some of the best and the brightest not only in the 14th District of Texas, but in the entire United States," said Paul. "I firmly believe that each and every one of these young men and women, if given the opportunity by the academies, will well represent the people of the 14th District."

A nomination by a Member of Congress can be seen as a "first step" toward a young person being accepted to one of the military academies. However, the nomination to an academy does not guarantee an appointment, or admission. After being nominated, a young person's credentials are then examined by the academies. If that nominee is not selected, or the nominee chooses to turn down appointment, the academy will then examine the alternate nominees put forward by the Member of Congress. In most cases a congressman is able to put forward a "principal" nominee to an academy, and alternates to that nominee. At times, though, a congressman is able to only put forward "competitive" nominees who are then examined by the academy as a group, from which the appointee is chosen.

The number of nominees, and the type of nominations, a Member of Congress can make to a given academy changes from year to year, based on the class size, and the number of students already attending from a given congressional district.

This year, Representative Paul had two "principal" nomination vacancies for the Naval Academy, one to the Military Academy at West Point, and one nomination to the Merchant Marine Academy. He was also able to send to the Air Force Academy a slate of "competitive" nominees.

"As we examined the applications of the candidates, I and my staff and advisors were struck by high quality of each of these individuals," said Paul. "They are young men and women of whom we can all be proud. Whether they attend the military academies or not, and whether they make

a career in the military or private sector, I am confident that each of these young people will be leaders in their communities, state and nation."

(30)

NOTE TO EDITORS: Following is the list of nominees and the type of nomination(s) they received.

Representative Paul's nominees to the Service Academies

Name	Hometown	Type of Nomination(s)
Alexis Wright	Georgetown	Naval Academy, principal nominee

Merchant Marine Academy, principal nominee

T. M. Alford	San Marcos	Naval Academy, principal nominee
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Air Force Academy, competitive nomination

Military Academy, alternate

Randall Crowder	Dripping Springs	Military Academy, principal nominee
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Air Force Academy, competitive nomination

Naval Academy, alternate

Nathan Denton	Angleton	Air Force Academy, competitive nomination
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Military Academy, alternate

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Naval Academy, alternate

Christopher Pustka	Lockhart	Air Force Academy, competitive nomination
Molly Miller	Dripping Springs	Air Force Academy, competitive nomination
Samantha Nicole Clifton	Bastrop	Air Force Academy, competitive nomination
Risa Dial	Luling	Air Force Academy, competitive nomination
Steven McDowell Schmitt	Edinburg	Air Force Academy, competitive nomination

Naval Academy, alternate

Laura Flynt	Martindale	Air Force Academy, competitive nomination
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Military Academy, alternate

Naval Academy, alternate

Matthew Hodges	El Campo	Air Force Academy, competitive nomination
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Military Academy, alternate

O'Neill Smith	Victoria	Military Academy (Westpoint), alternate
Zachary Watkins	Dripping Springs	Military Academy (Westpoint), alternate
Ryan Naquin	Sweeny	Naval Academy, alternate
Amanda Vedder	Victoria	Naval Academy, alternate
Christopher Deion	Cedar Creek	Naval Academy, alternate

Military Academy, alternate

Jason Slayton	Buda	Military Academy, alternate
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Naval Academy, alternate